

a.) Remarks

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicants elect for prosecution one of the inventions of:

Group I (Claims 1-11), drawn to a process for producing dipeptide; or

Group II (Claim 12), drawn to a microorganism.

In response, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely Claims 1-11.

Also, for Group I the Examiner is requesting that Applicants select from species A and B as described at page 3 of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants hereby select as follows:

A: a microorganism belonging to the genus *Microbacterium* (recited in claims 5 and 7).

B: a combination of alanine and glutamine (recited in claim 9).

Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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